

# **SUSSEX COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes  
November 28, 2012

## **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Sussex County Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 6:03 p.m. on November 28, 2012, at Sussex County Emergency Operations Center, by Chairman, Jeff Reed.

## **Advisory Committee Members Present:**

Honorable Sam Wilson, County Council  
Julie Wheatley, Director, Sussex County Economic Development

Garrett Dernoga

Rick Garner

Jeff Reed

Jim Hickin, Sussex County Airport (Non-member, designated as Mike Izzo's replacement)

## **Advisory Committee Members Absent:**

Todd Lawson, Sussex County Administrator      Mike Izzo, Sussex County Engineer  
Larry Kelley      Mark Ryan      Richard Wilson      Robert E. Young

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

A Motion was made by Garrett Dernoga, seconded by Jim Hickin, to approve the agenda as distributed. The agenda was unanimously approved by consent.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

A Motion was made by Garrett Dernoga, seconded by Julie Wheatley, to amend and approve the minutes of the September 26, 2012 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by consent.

### **3. Declaration of any letters, opinions or other guidance from outside the Advisory Committee presently or in the past**

There were no declarations presented.

### **4. Wings & Wheels Update**

Rick Garner commented that the event seemed to go over very well. Jeff Reed stated the weather was good and public seemed happy.

## **5. Wildlife Management Update**

Jim Hickin advised the committee that he is working with DNREC to obtain a deer harvest permit. Jim will also be attending a one day Wildlife Management class on December 12, 2012 and will have information to offer afterward.

## **6. Airport Update**

Jim Hickin discussed the following updates:

- A. Runway Extension- Phase I of the project is wrapping up and will shut down for the winter. There was a test strip performed on the taxiway and it failed therefore the paving will not be complete within the first 100 days of the project as was expected. Phase II of the project will begin early spring and the completion date is now expected to be June 25, 2013.
- B. A meeting was held with DelDOT Consultants in November and discussion centered on the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. The consultant is working on a business plan for the airport.
- C. The energy audit is being compiled for the airport. It was funded by a 2011 grant to determine cost savings for the airport.
- D. Signage: DelDOT did a review of off-airport directional signs and determined several signs were damaged, missing and needed to be replaced and/or repaired.
- E. Airport Lighting: Runway 10-28 LED lighting project is complete. Runway 4-22 lighting will occur as part of the runway extension.

## **7. Airport Restaurant Update**

Garrett Dernoga announced to the committee that it appears the restaurant operator may be closing December 31, 2012. Garrett was looking for county input on the situation. Jim Hickin commented that he had spoken with Todd Lawson and that the operator has a lease until the end of May 2013. It was determined that this issue is between the Tenant and Landlord. Garrett expressed concern that the restaurant would close and pilots who frequent the facility would turn to other airports and it would be difficult to get the data base to return here in the interim. A motion was made by Garrett Dernoga and seconded by Rick Garner for Garrett Dernoga and Jeff Reed, on behalf of the committee, to write a letter to Sussex County Council to make them aware of how critical the restaurant is to the airport and to minimize any downtime the restaurant would be closed. Garrett also suggested the County could possibly do some advertising to area trade publications to inform pilots of the situation and a resolution. The letter to Council will be included in the reading of the correspondence in the Council meeting of December 11, 2012.

**8. Public Comments**

Mrs. Pat VanAuken brought up a property issue between her and the County that is not under the Airport Advisory Committee's jurisdiction. Jim Hickin will check into her concern and report back to her to find out what the problem is.

**9. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center, Georgetown, Delaware.

Jim Hickin reminded everyone that their term expires December 31, 2012 and asked if those present wanted to continue on the committee. A unanimous response was yes from those in attendance. One member, Robert E. Young, has expressed his desire to no longer serve on the committee.

A motion to adjourn was made by Garrett Dernoga, Seconded by Rick Garner. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Wise, Clerk III Technician  
Sussex County Airport